

# Early Years Inspectorate Regulatory Report

## Pre School

<b>TUSLA Identifier:</b>	TU2015CC305
--------------------------	-------------

<b>Name of Service:</b>	Tus an Bhothair , Togher Family Center
-------------------------	--

<b>Address of Service:</b>	Grounds of Togher Boys School, Togher Road, Cork, Co. Cork
----------------------------	--

<b>Eircode:</b>	T12 Y710
-----------------	----------

<b>Name of Registered Provider:</b>	Niamh Sheridan
-------------------------------------	----------------

<b>Service type:</b>	Sessional
----------------------	-----------

<b>Date(s) of Inspection:</b>	22/09/2023
-------------------------------	------------

<b>No of pre-school children:</b>	AM	19	PM	
-----------------------------------	----	----	----	--

<b>Address of the Early Years Inspectorate:</b>	Early Years Inspectorate, Admin Building, St Marys Health Campus, Cork, T23x440
<b>Inspection undertaken by:</b>	C Stokes
<b>Title:</b>	Early Years Inspector

### Authority to Inspect

The Tusla Early Years Inspectorate carries out inspections of Early Years Services under Section 58(J) of the Child Care Act 1991 (as inserted by Section 92 of the Child and Family Agency Act 2013).

<b>Conditions if applicable</b>	N/A
---------------------------------	-----

### Description of service

This service is in an urban setting on the grounds of Togher Boys School. It is registered as a sessional setting. The service is open from Monday to Friday between 9am and noon and 1-4pm for 38 weeks of the year. A school age service is not provided. A service is registered provided to children aged 2 to 6 years and currently was providing a service to children from 2 years, 8 months, up. The service is in a prefabricated single storey building on the grounds of Togher Boys school with one preschool room, a kitchen, sanitary facilities, and an outdoor area. The service has access to a second outdoor area shared with a separate preschool service. This service takes a play-based approach to children's care and learning in a supportive environment.

### Staffing

There were four adults present on the day of inspection and all the adults were working directly with the children. The registered provider is not service based and does not work directly with the children in the service. Three adults were suitably qualified with a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at a minimum level 5, the fourth adult was a student of a recognised qualification in Early Years Care and Education. Two adults were absent, both have a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 7.

### Methodology

Tusla's Early Years Inspectorate is the independent statutory regulator of early years services in Ireland. The Child Care Act 1991 (Early Years Services) Regulations 2016 define the duty of a registered provider to ensure the safety and well-being of children and to comply with these regulations. This Act also gives Tusla the authority to assess compliance with the regulations. The purpose of regulation in relation to early years services is to ensure that the care, safety, and well-being of children attending such services is upheld. Inspections of early years services are planned based on the following:

- Previous inspection history
- Any information received in relation to the service

The findings on inspection are based on:

- Information obtained through examination of documentation
- Direct observation
- Discussion with relevant staff

This inspection was unannounced and focused on the area of governance/ health, welfare, and development of child/ safety. The inspection may also focus on other areas as required.

Inspection findings are documented in the inspection report which is first issued in draft format to the service with an opportunity to respond to any findings. Where statutory requirements are identified as not being met, the registered provider must demonstrate how they have rectified the non-compliance and will prevent any non-compliance from re occurring. The Corrective Action and Preventive Action plan (CAPA) will be used to inform decisions about compliance with regulatory requirements. Where the registered provider fails to meet the statutory requirements an escalation process may be commenced.

The inspectorate reserves the right to edit responses received for reasons including clarity, completeness, and compliance with administrative and legal processes.

The contents of the report are compiled by the inspectorate body.

### Acknowledgments

The inspector wishes to acknowledge the cooperation of the person in charge, staff and children who were present on the day of the inspection.

## Part III – Management and Staff

### Regulation 9 – Management and recruitment

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that-*

- (a) the service has a designated person in charge and a named person who is able to deputise as required,*
- (b) at all times during the period when the pre-school service is being carried on, the designated person in charge or the named person referred to in subparagraph (a) is on the premises, and*
- (c) there is a clear management structure in the service that identifies the lines of authority and accountability in the service and the specific roles and responsibilities of each employee and unpaid worker.*

*(2) A registered provider shall ensure that each employee, unpaid worker and contractor is suitable and competent taking into consideration the nature of the needs of children, including by-*

- (a) consideration of references from the person's past employers, if any, and in particular the most recent employer, if any,*
- (b) consideration of references from reputable sources in the case of a person who has no past employers,*
- (c) consideration of the vetting disclosure received from the National Vetting Bureau of the Garda Síochána in accordance with the Act of 2012 in respect of the person, and*

*(d) ensuring, insofar as is practicable, that where a person has lived in a state other than the State for a period of longer than 6 consecutive months, he or she provides police vetting from the police authorities in that state.*

*(4) A registered provider shall ensure that, without prejudice to the generality of paragraph (2) and subject to paragraphs (5) and (6), each employee working directly with children attending the service holds at least a major award in Early childhood Care and Education at Level 5 on the National Qualifications Framework or a qualification deemed by the Minister to be equivalent.*

### Compliance Information

(1)(a) The registered provider ensured there was a named person in charge (PIC) of operating the service.

(b) In addition, there was a named deputy person in charge (DPIC). The person in charge was present on the day of inspection and stated that the PIC or DPIC are always on the premises.

(c) There was a clear management structure in place, and this was displayed on the wall.

(2) The staff recruitment files were examined as part of this inspection.

(a) When the recruitment files of all 6 adults was reviewed two written and appropriately validated references were available in respect of 8 past employers

(b) Two written and appropriately validated references were available in respect of 4 sources other than past employers.

(c) A completed record of Garda vetting disclosure from the National Vetting Bureau was available for the 6 adults.

(d) Police vetting was required and available for 2 adults who had lived outside the jurisdiction for a period exceeding 6 months.

(4) A certificate of a major award in Early Childhood care and education at QQI level 5, 6, 7 and 8 on the National Qualification framework was on file for 5 adults. The 6<sup>th</sup> adult did not require this as they were on a student placement.

### Part III – Management and Staff

#### Regulation 11 - Staffing levels

*(1) Subject to this Regulation, a registered provider shall ensure that there is at all times an adequate number of adults working directly with the children attending the pre-school service.*

*(3) Subject to paragraph (5), a registered provider of a sessional pre-school service shall ensure that at all times the minimum ratio of adults to children specified in column (3) of Part 2 of Schedule 6 opposite a particular reference number specified in column (1) of that Part in respect of the age range of the children specified in column (2) therefore at that reference number is satisfied.*

#### Compliance Information

(1) The registered provider ensured that an adequate number of adults were working directly with the children.  
(3) The care rooms met the adult/child ratio of 1 to 11 with 19 children and 4 adults present on the day of inspection.

### Part V - Care of Child in Pre-school Service

#### Regulation 19 - Health, welfare and development of child

*(1) A registered provider shall, in providing a pre-school service, ensure that-*

*(a) each child's learning, development and well-being is facilitated within the daily life of the pre-school service through the provision of the appropriate activities, interaction, materials and equipment, having regard to the age and stage of development of the child, and*

#### Compliance Information

##### Basic Needs

- The morning snacks were served at 10.30am and water was observed to be readily available. The snack comprised rice cakes, cheese and sliced apples which was provided by the service. Staff were observed to sit and interact with the children during snack times to make it a social occasion.
- Most children in the preschool room were independent using the toilet and staff supported these children appropriately, with gentle reminders for handwashing. Staff were sensitive to the needs of the children who were not fully trained and supported these children as necessary.
- A quiet area in the preschool room was available for rest beside the library and sensory area.

- Children were observed to have access to the outdoor area for mobility on the day of inspection.
- There was a calm and engaging atmosphere in the rooms. Staff were observed to interact in a caring manner with the children building their sense of safety and security in the setting.

### Supporting relationships around children:

- The person in charge advised the inspector that the service operated in partnership with parents, with an online application to send information individually for the parents and communication in person with parents at handover times. The monthly themes are also posted on a social media site for parents.
- The person in charge stated that service facilitates one to one meetings with parents in November and March to enhance the partnership approach with parents and the person in charge advised that meetings may be held more regularly when a child requires such support.
- The setting communicates the observation records of the children's interests and progress with parents/guardians. The regular observations on the children contributed to the emergent curriculum based around the children's expressed interests. These interests link in with and inform the activities and themes of the month.
- The adults were observed to show positive regard for the children on the day of inspection, with encouragement and praise for specific tasks in a warm and caring manner for example during tidy up/transition times where nurturing and enthusiastic interactions were observed.
- The setting is integrated with the local community particularly the onsite school communities and other preschool setting onsite where children can use a second outdoor play area.

### Physical and Material Environment

- The indoor environment was child friendly, bright, and spacious and laid out in special interest areas with materials accessible to the children.
- Interest areas included a creative area with mark making, painting; a library with soft area; sensory area; home corner; construction area, tabletop toy area with puzzles, threading, pegboards; imaginative area with dress up.
- Children had their own individual cubby areas to store their arts and crafts until these are sent home.
- Childrens artwork and pictures of family and the community were at children's eye level.
- Child sized tables and chairs were available.
- The outdoor area had interest areas and equipment including bikes, sand, soil, tray for water play, hula hoops, balls, rackets, and a playhouse for creative and imaginative play.

### Programme of Activities

- The service offered a play-based curriculum and playful opportunities were supported throughout the early learning and care programme.
- The service has a predictable and established daily routine for children, with opportunities for child led activities and large group games.
- The service has a daily plan which is reviewed by staff after the session. A Monthly plan was available for inspection and the service emphasises children's choice and developing the children's independence.
- Children's observations are recorded monthly and learning stories are completed once a term. In addition, each child has their own scrapbook. These are shared with parents at the one-to-one meetings and are signed by parents.

### Part VI - Safety

#### Regulation 23 - Safeguarding health, safety and welfare of child

*A registered provider shall ensure that all reasonable measures are taken to safeguard the health, safety and welfare of a pre-school child attending the service and that the environment of the service is safe.*

#### Compliance Information

##### General Safety:

- Internal and external doors were secured on the day of inspection.
- Emergency exit doors were unobstructed.
- Storage facilities were inaccessible to children in a locked outdoor shed.
- No cables were within reach of children on the day of inspection.
- The outdoor area was observed to be free of safety concerns or hazards.

##### Infection Control:

- Handwashing with thermostatically controlled hot water, soap and paper towels for drying was observed on the day of inspection.
- Lidded pedal operated bins were available in the children's toilets for paper towel disposal.

##### Administration of Medication:

- The administration of medication was not observed at the time of inspection.

##### Safe Sleep:

- This service is a sessional service, with a quiet area for rest rather than sleep facilities.

## Fire Safety:

- No fire safety issues were observed on the day of inspection. Fire doors were not obstructed, and fire drills were conducted monthly for the safe evacuation of the service.

## Outing:

- No outings were conducted on the day of inspection. The service has an outings policy.

## Part VI - Safety

### Regulation 26 - Fire safety measures

*(1) A registered provider shall ensure that a record in writing is kept of-*

- (a) any fire drill that takes place in the premises, and*
- (b) the number, type and maintenance record of fire fighting equipment and smoke alarms in the premises.*

*(4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of fire shall be displayed in a conspicuous position in the premises.*

### Compliance Information

- (1) (a) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept of the fire drills, the most recent drill was dated 20 September 2023.
- (b) The registered provider ensured that a record was kept of the firefighting equipment. The service record indicated the fire extinguishers were maintained in September 2023 and the fire alarm service record indicated they were serviced/ maintained in June 2023.
- (4) A notice of the procedures to be followed in the event of a fire was on display at the fire point in the room.